Whatever Shri Pilot has said is the creation of these Congress People...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Mr. Rupchand Pal to Speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you know, the jute industry is a very important industry in our country which provides employment to several lakhs of people. Currently, this industry is afflicted by an unprecedented demand recession, particularly in the domestic market. There is no buying of B-Twill bags by the Indian Government from November this year.

On the other hand, the cement and fertilizer industries continue to flout the mandatory order, I mean the revised mandatory order of the Government of India, 1995. Sir, the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 which was passed by the Parliament unanimously, is following more in violation than in compliance, particularly by the cement and the fertilizer industries.

The sugar industry because of the several other factors is also not buying the jute bags. As a result of these factors, there is huge loss of rightful share of business by the jute industry, particularly in the domestic market. I would like to draw the attention of this Governments' mandatory order with impunity.

Several times in the past also the attention of the Government had been drawn to the flouting of rules by these industries. currently, we find that the Government of India has discontinued buying B-Twill bags from its November account which has further contributed to the process of recession being suffered by the jute industry.

I would like the Government to respond to this very very urgently and serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, jute is considered to be environment-friendly product.

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that hand-pumps in 337 villages have been closed in Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh due to complaint of fluoride in water. People are suffering due to non-availability of water. I would like to know from the Government whether any scheme has been chalked out to solved this problem. So far no funds have been made available for this purpose. A Rs. 10 crore schme has been sent by Madhya Pradesh Government to the Central Government. This scheme is under consideration of the Government. I would like to convey through you that a scheme should be prepared to provide drinking water for the people of these 337 villages. I would like to request the Government to provide funds so that drinking water could be provided.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr Deputy Speaker, today I want to raise a matter in this House which is in our own interest. No body raises this matter for the Members of Parliament. Members do not raise this issue because tomorrow the news papers and other media would blame that we are not worried about the poor people. They are worried about themselves and they have raised the issue of increasing the wages and allowances of members but I want to place some facts before the House. Members of Parliament get Rs. 1500 as salary. Members of Parliament stand at 21st position as per the protocol. We are the citizen of India and when as per the protocol we come on 21st position, why our wages are so low. It is the basic reasons of corruption, When our wages will not be revised and it will not be increased as per the requirements of Members of Parliament, the problem shall continue. Therefore, there should be an increase in their wages. We go to our constituency and the people of our constituency come to us. When some one comes to us from one thousand or two thousand kilometres, we are not in a position to offer them a cup of tea. The D.M. and IAS officers of our area are provided vehicles and PAs. Against this the Members of the supreme institution of the country are not provided with any steno, typewriter and vehicle. I do not know how can we look into the problems of the people. All these matters should be considered seriously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to raise one more point. Members are talking here about Hawala scandal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Chandumajra.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Kumar, please sit down. I have called out the name of another hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the use of speaking? Nothing will go on record.

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* Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Chandumajra.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Kumar Singh, will you please sit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the fact that Punjab is being discriminated with regard to the price of paddy against other States. Rs. 20/- per quintal was reduced last year and this year. Hon. Agriculture Minister as well as the Prime Minister had assured that the farmers of Punjab will not be discriminated but this year also they have been discriminated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given two items. One has been taken up under Rule 377. Now you, speak only on "Discrimination against Punjab farmers on price of paddy".

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I am speaking on the same matters Mr. Deputy Speaker, P.R. 106 quality of paddy is considered super fine throughout the country. But it is considered fine in Punjab. When RP-106 quality of paddy is exported it is considered super fine. In reply to my unstarred question on 27th, the Food Minister admitted that RP-106 is considered superfine quality. The Government have replied that the moisture content is much in Punjab variety. It is a well known fact that the fields of Punjab are adjacent to the fields of Haryana. In Haryana this quality has been considered super fine whereas in Punjab it is considered fine and they have been paid Rs. 20 per quintal less. In this way they have been paid Rs. 40 crore less this year and Rs. 40 crore last year. Thus the farmers of Punjab have been plundered.

We want that bonus should be given to the farmers of Punjab. The assurance given by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister during the last session. that the farmers of Punjab would given proper price of their produce has not been fulfilled. Whatever the Prime Minister had said has not been fulfilled. I want to know whether Government are prepared to give bonus. The wheat which was purchased from the farmers of Punjab at the rate of Rs. 300 per quintal is selling at Rs. 800 or 900 per quintal. Same is the case of cotton. The farmers of Punjab are being paid not more than Rs. 1500 per qunital. The Food Minister has given false figures here. The farmers are staging a 'Dharna' to get adequate price of their produce. Government are not taking any action in this regard. I request the Government that there should be no discrimination with the farmers of Punjab. The farmers who contribute 70 per cent of wheat and rice in the Central pool should be encouraged but on the contrary they are being discouraged. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether Government are prepared to give them bonus.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you I want to raise a matter of national importance. For the last some day a debate is going on that the Chief Justice of India would be superseded. But our Law Minister has given a statement on a T.V. channel that there shall be no supersession and Justice J.S. Verma will be made Chief Justice immediately after the superannuation of Justice Shri Ahmedi I would like to request as it is an important policy decision and the House is in session, this statement should have been given in the House. The entire nation is looking towards this statement. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Law Minister that whatever he has said on the Private channel should clarify in the House that immediately after the superannuation of the present incumbent Justice Ahmedi, the next senior most Justice J.S. Verma would be declared the Chief Justice of India. Previously, also at the time of the retirement of the Chief Justice of India, orders for the next Chief Justice were issued well in time to stop any speculations in this regard. Therefore, I would like to thank the hon. Law Minister that he has clarified this on a private T.V. channel. But I would like him to authenticate whether he has given this clarification on a Private T.V. channel and whether Government have taken a decision that Justice J.S. Verma would be made the Chief Justice. I would like him to give this statement on the floor of the House. This would enable judiciary to function freely and would create confidence in the 90 crore people of the country.

13.00 hrs.

I would like the Law Minister to repeat the Statement given on a Private T.V. channel, in the House itself just now. If he does so, I would congratulate him. Law Minister is present in the House. It is an important point and he should clarify it for the entire nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

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* Not Recorded.